

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 12-13, 21-22 and 27 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 29-45 have been added. Claims 29-45 are similar in form to claims 24-40 issued in the parent U.S. Patent No. 6,649,612. Claims 29 and 30 are also similar in form to claims 19 and 20 of the parent U.S. Patent No. 6,316,009. No new matter has been added.

The claims have also been amended to be similar in for to issued claims of the above-noted parent patents.

A PTO 1449 Form listing the parent U.S. Patent No. 6,649,612 is also attached. Return of an initialed copy of the same, pursuant to MPEP § 609 is requested.

The applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter of the Examiner's Group XIII. The applicants further elect, with traverse, the species of Example 47.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction and species election requirements at least as between the Examiner's Groups XIII, XVI and XVII are requested. Specifically, the examination of the subject matter of the Examiner's XVI and XVII with an elected product is not believed to have presented an undue burden for the present Examiner in the above-noted parent issued U.S. patents. At a minimum, rejoinder and allowance of the method claims are requested with the product claims from which they depend once claims to the products are found allowable.

Pending claims 1-11, 14-20 and 23-26 read on the elected Group.

The pending claims of the elected Group read on the elected species.

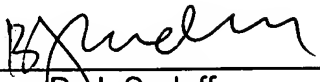
An early and favorable Action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

Bernardon
Appl. No. 10/613,320
Monday, November 21, 2005

The Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned in the event anything further is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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